
EAST BAY EXPRESS
REINVENTING THE WHEELS
In the male-dominated sport of skateboarding, women in the Bay Area and beyond are creating their own cultures, challenging stereotypes, and inspiring others along the way.
By Anna Pulley



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EAST BAY EXPRESS

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LETTERS

I'm Losing Sleep at Night

[illegible]

It's About Paying People a Living Wage

[illegible]

If Richmond Can Do It, Why Not Oakland?

[illegible]

Unions Are Not Always Good

[illegible]


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able to [illegible] their members, often at the expense of the people and communities they serve. Consider this quote from the story: "And I'm not guaranteed to have a job. They can end me loose at any time for any reason." It's easy to sympathize with Mr. [Tatum] Redard here, but when people are "guaranteed to have a job," big problems arise. When union employees are rendered un-fireable, it's easy for them to become lazy and incompetent (see: BART employees, Caltrans, etc.) because there's no longer any motivation to work hard.

In cases like BART, where the workers provide a needed public service, these union requirements can end up screwing the public just to benefit a select group of insiders (see: the BART strikes, where people making $[illegible] a year couldn't get to their jobs because people making $80,000 a year wanted pay raises).

Anyway, I know it's in the *Express'* liberal DNA, but [illegible] try to avoid the knee-jerk reaction of "unions good, non-unions bad." It's a bit more nuanced than that, and often ends up being the opposite from the public's perspective.

Alex [illegible], Oakland

The City Is at Fault

There are always isolated complaints about unions, but overall they serve to counterbalance the excessive power of corporations. As far as citizens contacting the City of Berkeley and being shut out from public information, no Public Records Act request should be filed.

It is the fault of the vastly overpaid city manager, an invisible administrator who seems to not understand that they work for the people, not the big money interests. They, of course, have this job being paid in excess of $[illegible] plus a 30 percent benefits package that taxpayers have to struggle to pay.

And what do taxpayers get? No release of important information that should be public information. It is also the fault of our mayor who has way too many concerns to run and go and seek office as if it were some sort of prize. He seems disinterested and tries to distance himself from the machinery of government.

A new broom needs to sweep clean some of the entitled administrative deputies and heads of departments who with their inflated pay have long forgotten the plight of what good old [illegible] called "the little people." These little people are you and me and we are not being properly represented in Berkeley's city government.

Steve [illegible], Berkeley

[illegible]

Dickensian Debtors' Prisons Have Arrived

Robert Gammon's article draws two important conclusions that I wish to highlight: the failure of one of two license plate light bulbs presents "no real threat to public safety," and that arrests which require [illegible] because of citations are "often not that necessary." I wager that no one in history has been harmed due to non-illumination of a license plate light bulb.

I hope that the well-educated and politically active Bay Area will soon realize the consequences of our path into criminalizing everyday life. These mistakes are not solely limited to the war on drugs and mass incarceration, although that is a large part of it especially with mandatory minimum sentencing.

Mr. Gammon's article highlights a disturbing national law enforcement trend: that of absurd tax collection. This [illegible] a great deal because Dickensian private debtors' prisons have arrived and are thriving in the United States. Collection of court fines made up 20 percent of the Ferguson, Missouri city budget this past year, helping fuel the anger present in that community, as a largely white police force harasses its black citizens. It was only after a massive public shaming campaign that Bill Gates started divesting his close-to-forty-million investments in G4S and GEO Group, two of the largest private prison operators in the world that are guilty of torture, among other wrongdoings.

Here in the Bay Area, I usually align myself with leftists, whether it's ending marijuana prohibition, standing up for same sex marriage rights, or fending back Oakland's Domain Awareness Center. There are simply not enough Democrats to [illegible] opposition to the loss of freedom due to government encroachment upon our daily lives. I practice the Non-Aggression Principle. Stated simply, as an adult I can do whatever the hell I want unless it will harm someone else. This principle is currently being misused by anti-vaccers, where personal beliefs may, and likely have, led to the harm of others.

Mr. Gammon's final thought does not go far enough. Decriminalizing vehicle code violations, while better than nothing, won't cut it. Other items are making it illegal to [illegible] a bundle, and yoga pants, in public. There will always be something to issue a citation for if our mindset stays the same. Wholesale repeal of code at the federal, state, and local level must occur so that personal freedom and many parts of our daily lives can progress unimpeded.

Justin [illegible], Oakland

Corrections

Our February 25 Insider's Guide story, "Oakland's Outdoor Art Exhibit," erroneously stated that the mural in the Fruitvale Bart Station parking lot includes the art of Carmen [illegible]. In fact, [illegible]'s contribution to the wall was painted over by artist Ross Wilson. Our February 25 Insider's Guide story, "Where to Get Your Drink On," should have stated that our list of the top twelve dive bars were from cities west of the hills — not east. And our February 18 cover story, "What the Frack?" misstated [illegible]'s job title. He is the executive director of [illegible] — not the president.

Letters Policy

[illegible]

Favoring the Raiders

Because of the stubbornness of A's co-owner Lew Wolff, Oakland may have no choice but to place the needs of the Silver and Black over those of the Green and Gold.

By Robert Gammon

Conventional wisdom states that it makes more sense for a city to pursue a professional baseball team than a football franchise. The reason is that Major League Baseball (MLB) clubs play 81 home games a year, compared to just 10 for football teams. As such, baseball attracts more people to a city — people who also tend to patronize other businesses, especially bars and restaurants. Baseball, in short, provides a bigger boost to a city's financial well-being. Oakland, however, may have to ignore that conventional wisdom, because, unfortunately, the Oakland A's have perhaps the most recalcitrant owner in all of sports: Lew Wolff.

Indeed, Wolff is nearly impossible to deal with — primarily because he's made it clear over the past decade that he doesn't want to be in Oakland. MLB and the courts have repeatedly told him that he essentially has no choice but to keep his team here. But he remains as obstinate as ever — and is giving Oakland officials almost no choice but to prioritize the needs of the Raiders over those of the A's. And perhaps that's exactly what he wants.

Wolff's latest contrarian move came late last week in an interview with the *Oakland Tribune* in which he declared that he had no interest in Oakland's Coliseum City project. Coliseum City is a proposed privately financed mega-development on the current Coliseum property that would include new stadiums for the A's and Raiders, along with hotels, apartments and condos, bars and restaurants, and retail.

Wolff knows full well that Oakland officials have proposed Coliseum City because the city has no money of its own to help build new sports stadiums. In fact, it's pretty clear that no city in California has the extra cash to spend on professional sports complexes. But the Coliseum City plan doesn't require taxpayer money; instead, the revenues generated by so-called ancillary development — the hotels, condos, etc. — would help finance the construction of the new stadiums.

But Wolff told the *Tribune* last week that he just wants a new ballpark and acres and acres of surface parking — with no ancillary development. Mega projects like Coliseum City require that most of the parking be located in multi-story garages because surface parking takes up too much space, thereby leaving not enough land for the revenue-generating ancillary development. That's especially true for the 120-acre Coliseum site.

Now, one might think that Wolff is just a stubborn owner who wants what he wants. But if history is any guide, Wolff's latest announcement is far more than just another case of him throwing a wrench into a plan to build a new ballpark in Oakland.

Why? Because Wolff himself has said repeatedly in the past that sports stadiums in Oakland and other places can't be financed without projects like Coliseum City. In fact, in 2005, Wolff proposed his own Coliseum City (he called it an "urban ballpark village") for 100 acres of land just north of the Coliseum, between 66th Avenue and High Street. Wolff's proposal was remarkably similar to Coliseum City. It featured a 35,000-seat ballpark, a hotel, housing, retail, bars and restaurants, and parking garages. I remember attending the presentation of his plan to Coliseum Authority officials in August 2005. "Our vision," he told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that year, "we see ... growth of our park and do what we call an urban ballpark village."

Less than a year later, Wolff abandoned that plan because it would have required the city to force about seventy blue-collar businesses off their properties through eminent domain. It was an untenable proposal. In fact, many A's fans believe to this day that Wolff was never serious about the ballpark village and only proposed it because he knew Oakland officials would never displace that many businesses — and thus he could tell MLB that he had "tried" to build a new facility in Oakland, but it didn't work out, and so the league should let him move his club.

But that's not all. In 2006, Wolff proposed a similar ballpark village plan for Fremont. He even went so far as to buy about 150 acres of land himself for his proposal. But he then gave up on it because of vocal opposition from Fremont residents who feared traffic from the proposed new suburb surrounding the stadium. In a July 2010 public letter to fans, Wolff explained the importance of a ballpark village to financing a new facility. "In Oakland or Fremont, a privately financed stadium would have required 'residential entitlements' — or as they're better known, development rights to build condos," he wrote.

So why is Wolff now against a ballpark village, when he was still touting them less than five years ago? Perhaps it's because he knows all too well that a new stadium on the Coliseum site can't be financed without one. And so if he blocks it, then no new stadium will get built, and he'll once again be able to renew his true desire — leaving the East Bay.

For her part, Mayor Jean Quan appears to be not taking the bait. She told me that she's going to keep moving forward with the Coliseum City proposal, including new stadiums for both the Raiders and the A's. "My plan is to work very hard to keep both teams at the table," she said.

However, at some point, that table might have to only include the Raiders.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

Oakland Police Overtime Costs Continue to Soar

The department is on track to spend about $30 million this year in OT — nearly double what the city council budgeted.

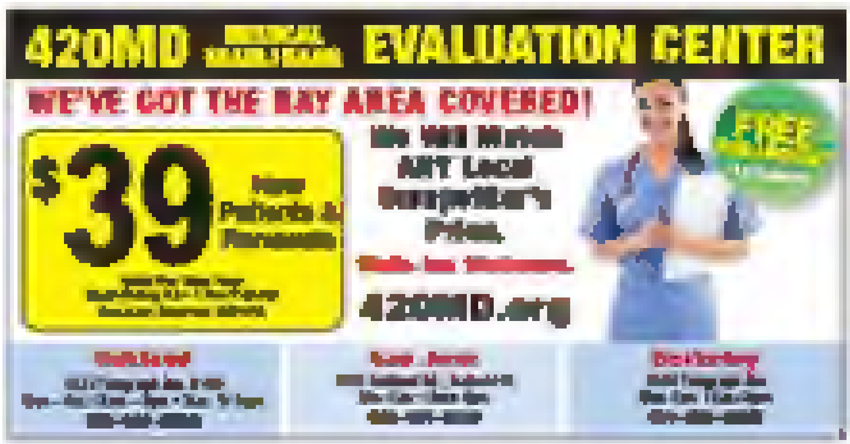
By Darwin BondGraham

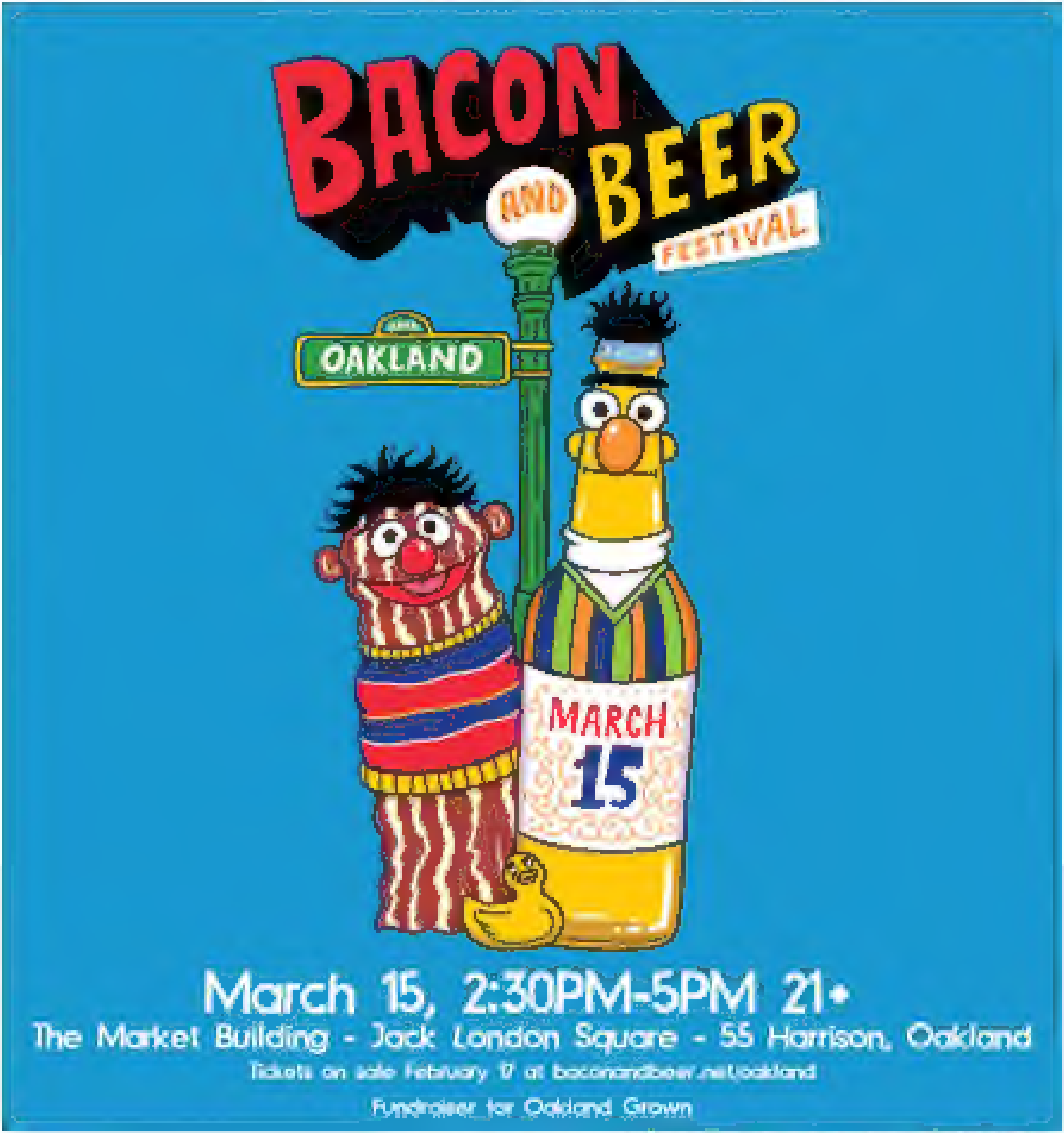
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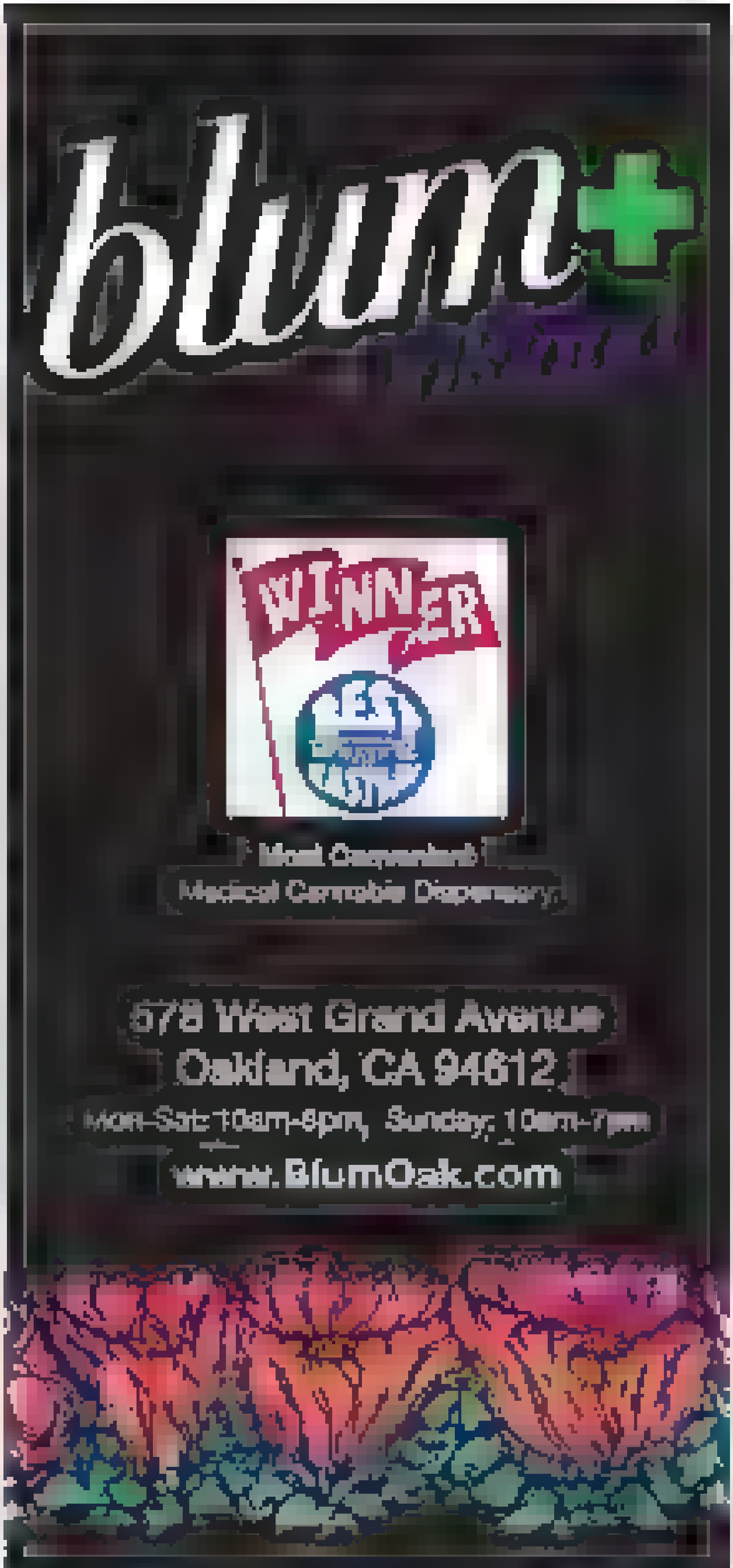
Faculty Punished for Speech?

After Laney College allegedly punished a part-time instructor who advocated for better rights, faculty members have demanded more job security and better benefits.

By Sam Levin






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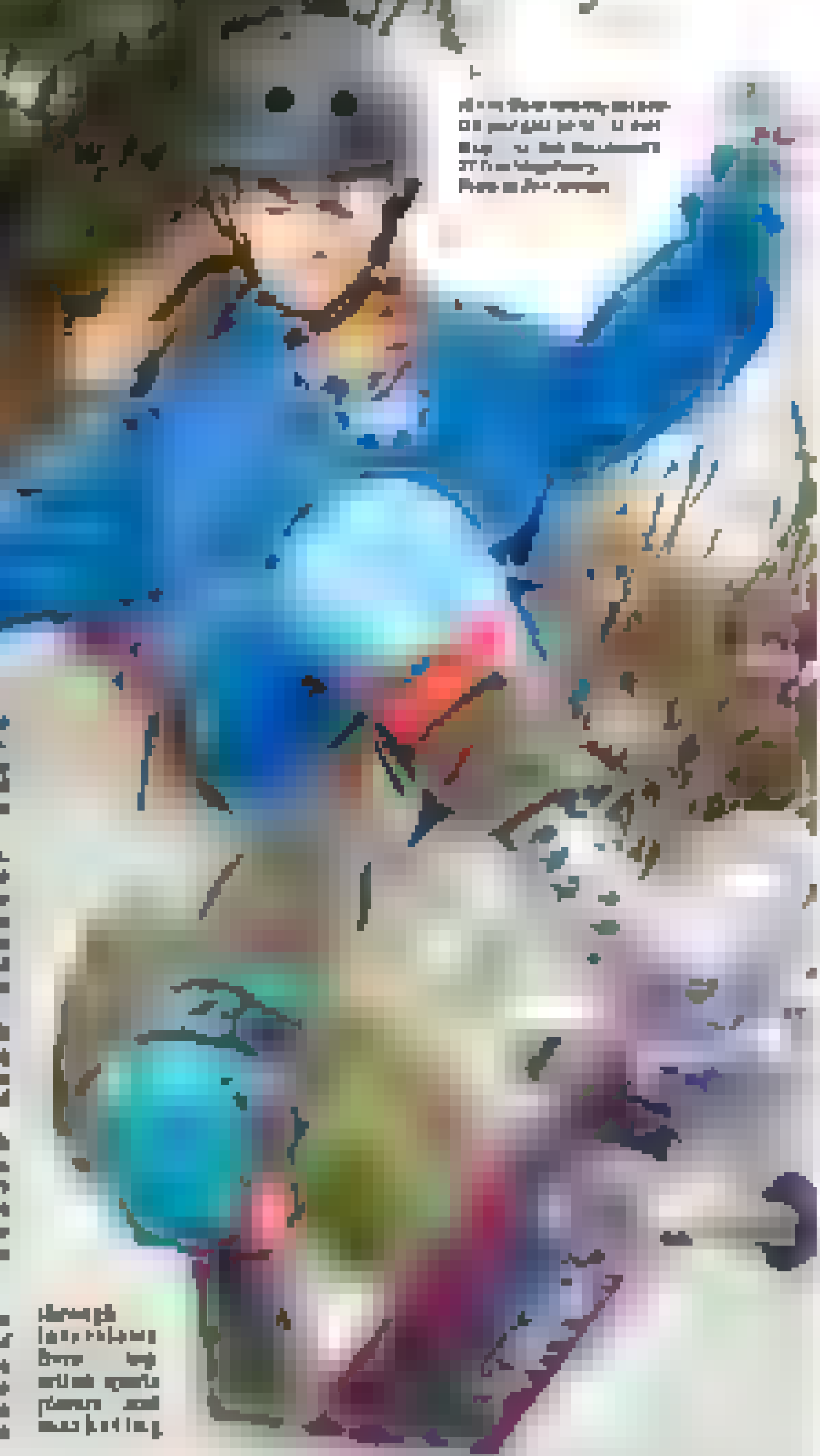
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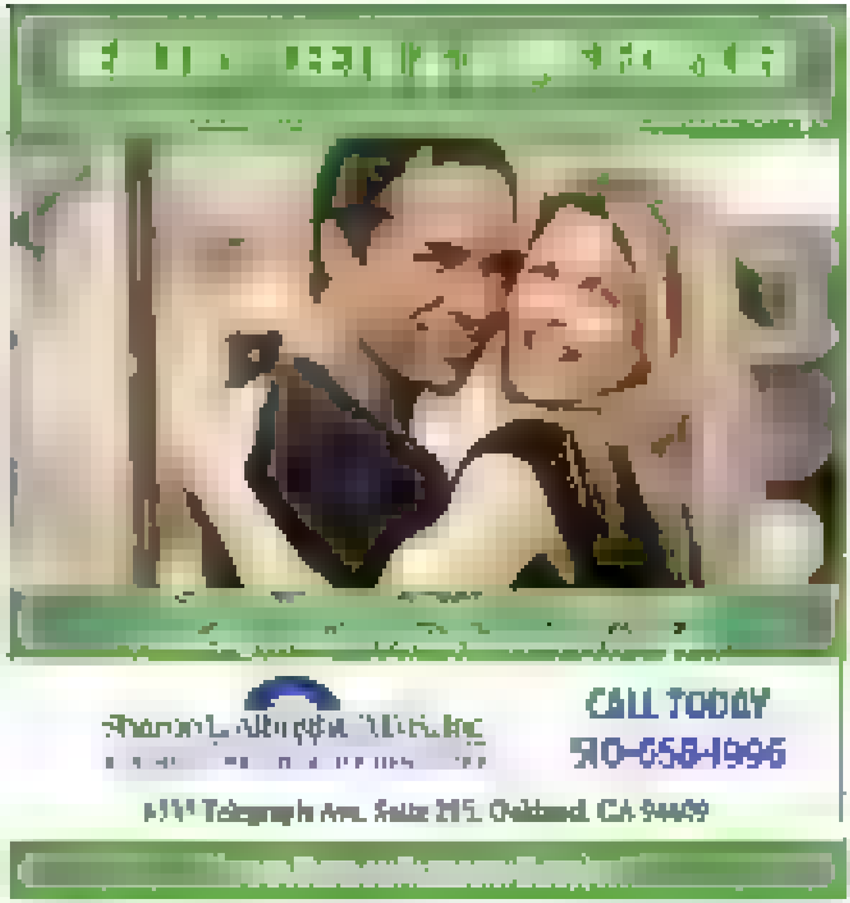


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in athletic activities. One particularly humorous example of this comes from Jennifer [illegible] book *Sporting Females*. In the Victorian era, "cycling, for example, was claimed to be an indecent and indecorous activity which tended to destroy the innate simplicity of a girl's nature and which might cause her to fall into the arms of a [illegible]. The worst fear was that cycling might even transport a girl to prostitution."

It wasn't just [illegible] bicycling that was suspect, either. Baseball and basketball were also thought to have a [illegible] on mothers, as well as [illegible]



[illegible] heterosexuals. Author [illegible] [illegible] wrote in [illegible] *Literary Digest* that "girls trained to physical education to-day may find it difficult to attract the most worthy fathers for their children."

Some of these bizarre attitudes still exist in parts. In Afghanistan, for example, it's deeply taboo for women to ride bikes, play soccer, or fly kites — but they can skateboard. Due to it being a relatively unknown sport in that part of the world, because of that, Skateistan, an inspiring non-governmental organization that promotes and empowers youth through skateboarding, is one of the most popular [illegible] in the world among female students.

It's also worth noting that parents play a big role in girls' involvement in sports. "There's no reason that girls can't do anything that they put their minds to, as boys are that manner," said Marie Zhang, Wimmy's [illegible]. "Gender really shouldn't have anything to do with it. If they are passionate about it, support it."

MAHFIA's Wimmy said that having supportive parents was a big part of her growing and staying in action sports. "Growing up [illegible], there wasn't a skate park. People who skateboarded were seen as the rebels, these [illegible] who didn't go to class or whatever. ... But now,

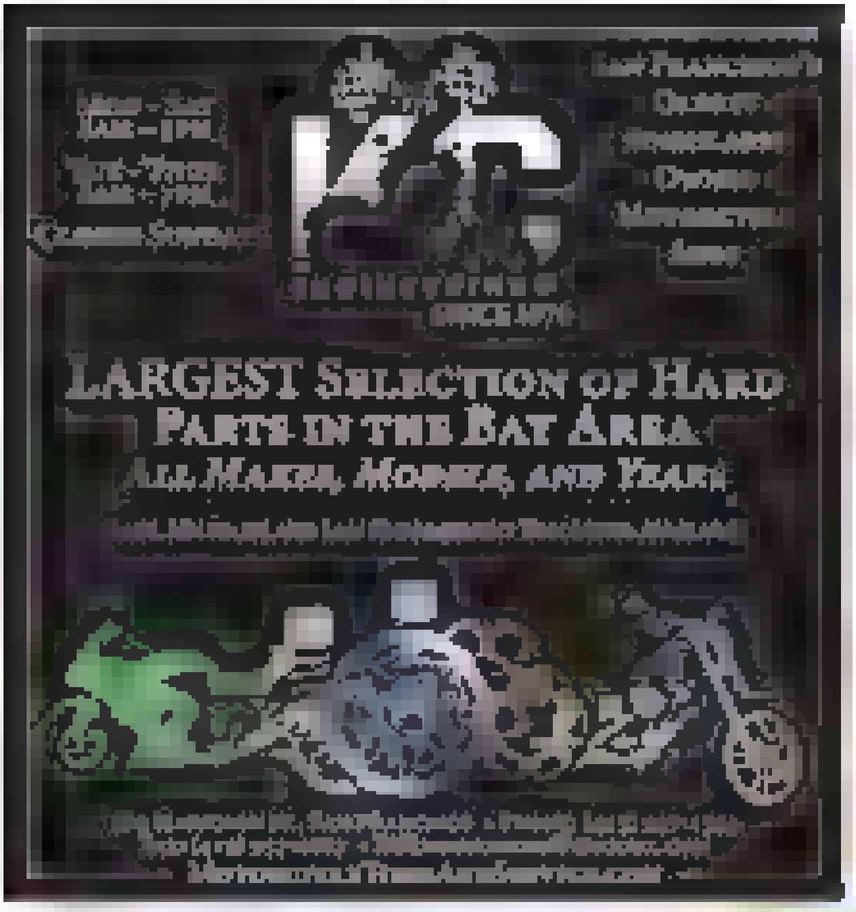
thanks to mainstream [illegible] — which do have some [illegible] in the industry — but thanks to that mainstream exposure, parents are now like, 'Okay, they won't get a bunch of [illegible] getting in trouble. It's positive.' I see the [illegible] on TV getting a medal at the podium, they have sponsors. It's an event." I think thanks to that a lot more people are accepting of it.

One of Wimmy's mottos is "You can't be what you can't see." It was coined by Marie Wilson from the White House Project, a nonprofit that worked to increase female participation in US institutions. Wimmy learned of the quote in the 2011 documentary *Miss Representation*, which was about the disproportionate lack of women in the media, and in positions of power in politics, business, and so on. Wimmy said the doc was a huge influence on what she does at MAHFIA. "The best way we can change media is to encourage girls to create their own media [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] And [illegible] the skating shows [illegible] [illegible] there's girls out there that can skate and maybe pick up a camera or just post a couple pics on Instagram. It's so easy now."

Because they often don't have the help of major branding campaigns or mainstream media outlets, female action sports pioneers and organizations are, in the immortal words of Aretha Franklin, doin' it for themselves. Cofounder Marie Zhang, who has been the Program Coordinator for the San Francisco Friends of Skate [illegible] for [illegible] years and has worked with hundreds of girls, said she discovered SLAG by accident. She was skating at the Potrero Skate Park in San Francisco's Mission District when another female skater approached her. Zhang said it was a "Where have you been all my life?" [illegible]. "It was probably one of my top happiest moments."

Zhang invited me to tag along at SLAG's Skate Date in Berkeley on a recent sunny morning. "I think [SLAG] gave me something that nothing else could have given me — an instant community in a place where you feel like 'Oh, look, you skate! And then you're like 'Oh no, this is a club full of [illegible]. Welcome!'"

[illegible], co-founder of SLAG, agreed that it's often hard for girls "to connect and meet each other to skate together, which is what we try to do — connect people and create that community."


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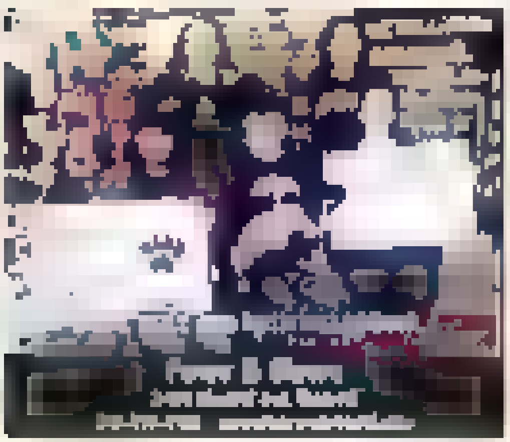




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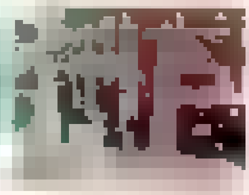
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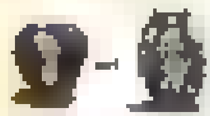












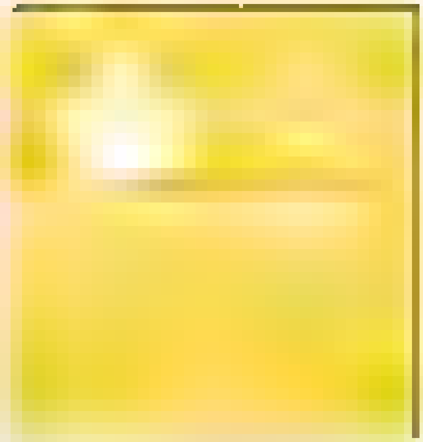



Volunteer Day



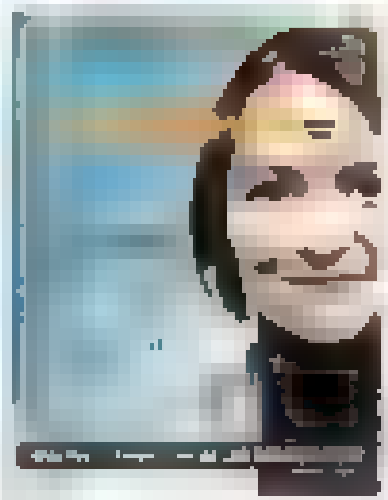


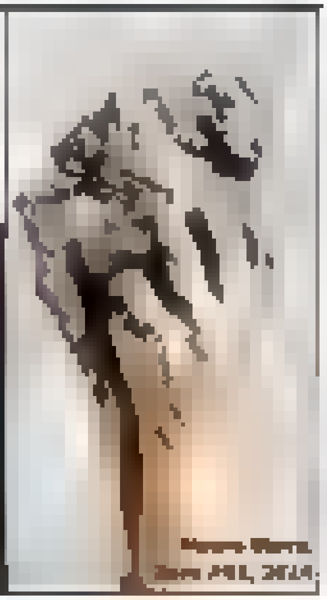
Monster Mash-Up













EVENTS

First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the Express for more information on East Bay art showings

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

Some venues offering art openings and special events on First Friday March 6th

ALAMEDA

Frank Bette Center

Rhythmix Studio & Galleries

ALBANY

Gathering Tribes

BERKELEY

Berkeley Potters Guild

Berkeley Screenprint Co.

Firehouse Gallery

Village Art Studios

Nolo Gallery

Urbanity

OAKLAND

The 3rd Jefferson Gallery

25th Street Gallery

Anna Edwards Gallery

Actual Café

Art Exhibitions

Aurbon Café

Bellevue Club

Book Zoo

Café Van Kleef

The Compound Gallery

Green Man Jewelry Boutique and Art Gallery

Era Art Bar

Fastroots Gallery

Gamma Space

J.Peach Design Studio

The Layover

Loralie

LoBot Gallery

MCI

Oakland First Fridays Street Festival

Oakland Cafe

The Inspiration Saloon

RAW Gallery

Sanglows de Gallery

Somar Bar and Lounge

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant

Studio One Art Center

Tech Liminal

Telegraph Beer Garden

Terracotta Art Center

Thelma Harris Art Gallery

The W.E.B.

Womens Art & Dance Studio

White Elm Gallery at Oakland School of the Arts

OAKLAND ART MURMUR

Aggregate Space Gallery

American Steel Studios

Backwoods Gallery

Bare One

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary

Classic Cars West

Creative Framing and Gallery

Creative Growth Art Center

Farley's East

Field Day And Friends

FM

The Great Wall of Oakland

Interface Gallery

Johansson Projects

Joyce Gordon Gallery

Krowswork

LeDenVera Gallery

Lonhat

Manna Gallery

Marion and Rose's Workshop

Mercury 20

The New Parkway Theater

Oakopolis / The Moon

Oakstop

PROTO

Prohibit

Rock Paper Scissors Collective

Rooney Ceramic Gallery

Royal Nonesuch Gallery

Shadetree Studios

SoleSpace

SLATE contemporary

Studios 11

Transmission Gallery

Uptown Art Park

Vessel Gallery

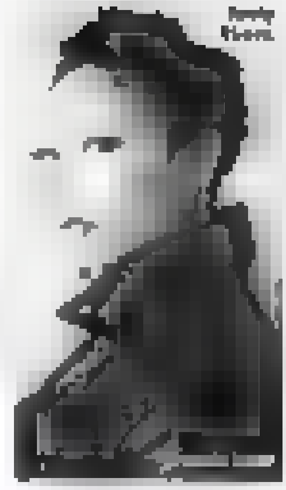
The Wall Gallery

Warehouse 416

EAST BAY EXPRESS

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday event and are not listed, please email your information to be included in the April directory.

Bites and Beats: Women in Hip-Hop



ART

Mixed Metaphors

By Sarah Burke









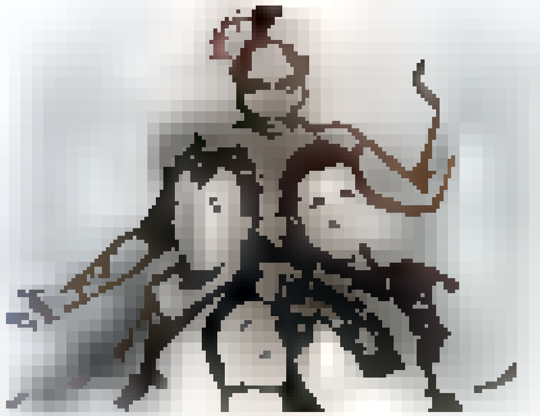
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My Kingdom for Another Beer!

Shakespeare's most famous sociopath is a bit toothless in Impact Theatre's *Richard III*

By Anna Pulley



Show Details

BOOKS

Tarek Atoui







Getting Hip to Birth

Some healthy options for an enjoyable birthing experience in the East Bay

By Meghan Lewis





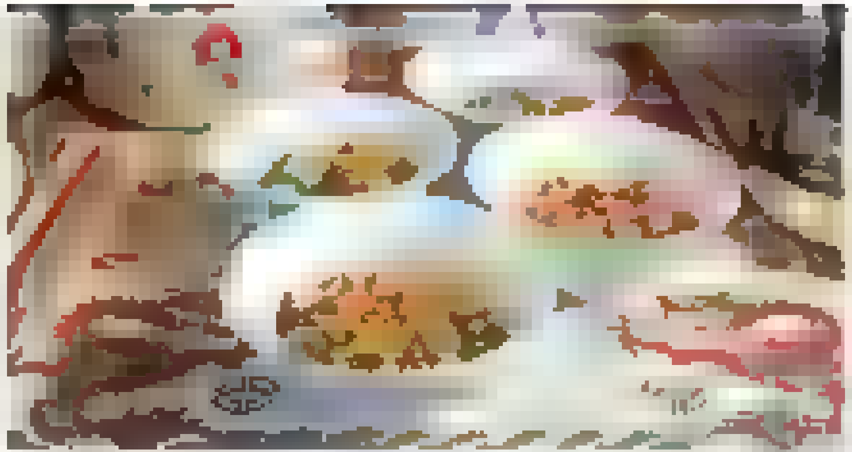
Happy as a Baby Clam

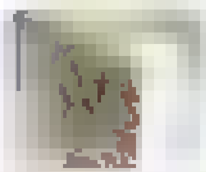
Da Nang Quan highlights the bold, earthy flavors of the central Vietnamese coast.

Da Nang Quan

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By Luke Tsai

Cuban Flavor

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Communal Table

Pho Hoa Lao

Pho Hoa Thai

Rang Dong

Rockin' Crawfish

Tay Ho

Vanessa's Bistro

Vientian Cafe









DINING GUIDE

Fermenting Dairy



In a Pickle



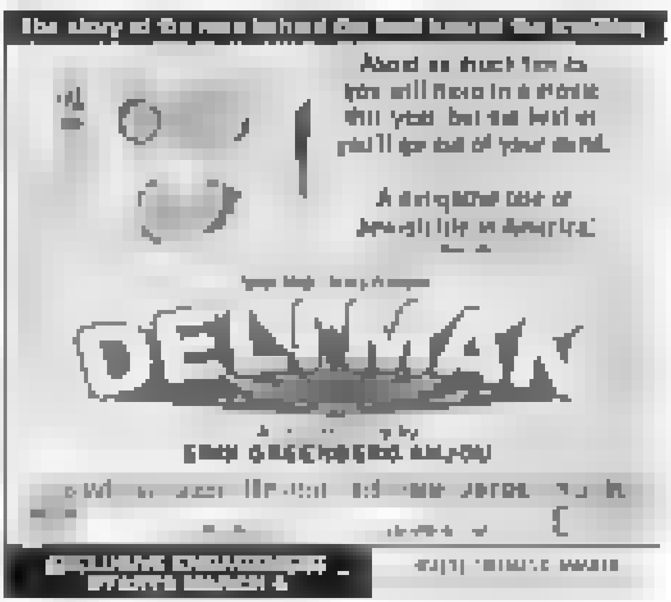
MOVIES   THEATERS

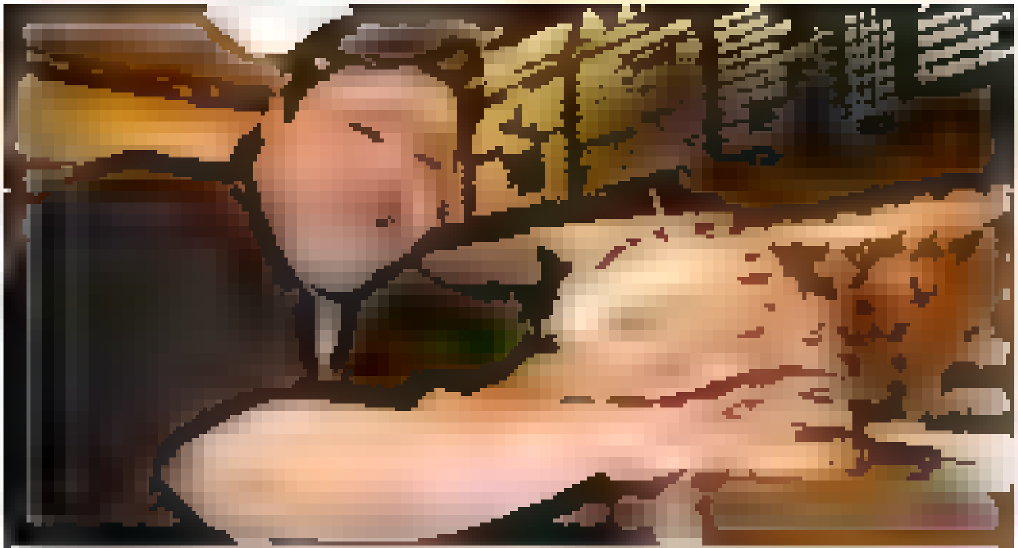
Showtimes Online


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DELI MAN



ShowTimes Online

M T

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

Red Pants and Redemption



Show Details



Conditional Rewards

Sarah Bethe Nelson calls upon [illegible] and social skills honed at the bar on her gorgeous debut *Fast Moving Clouds*.

By Sam Lefebvre

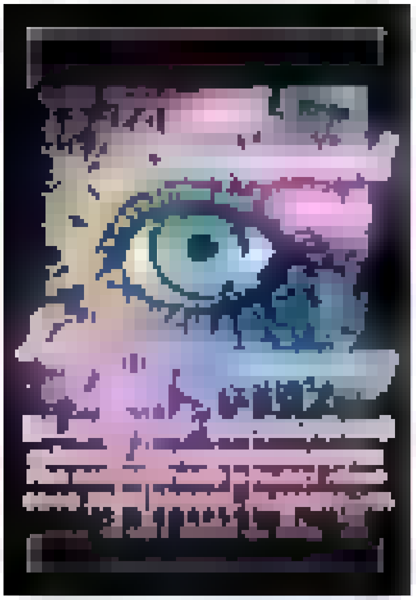




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Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

FRIDAY 6

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop





The Pop Group



The Classical

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

SATURDAY 7

All Ages

Experimental & Avant Garde

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Kids

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

SUNDAY 8

All Ages

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae,





& Reggaeton

MONDAY 9

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

TUESDAY 10

All Ages

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

WEDNESDAY 11

All Ages

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

DJ DANCE

THURSDAY 5

FRIDAY 6

SATURDAY 7

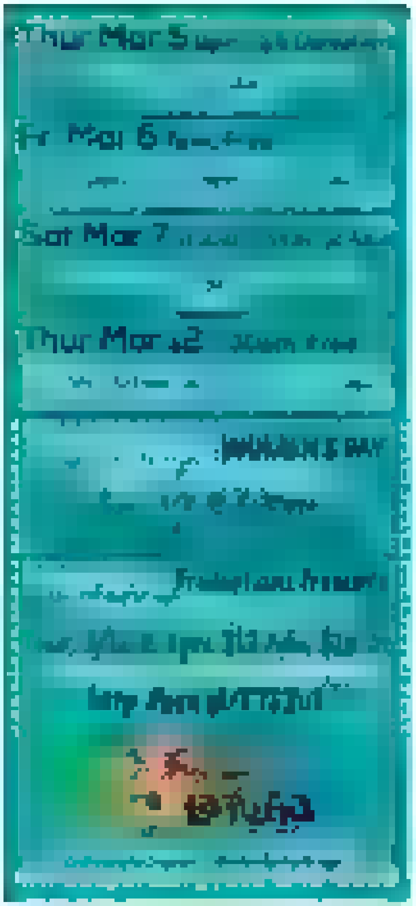
SUNDAY 8

MONDAY 9

TUESDAY 10

WEDNESDAY 11

Where It's At & The Legionnaire Saloon 2 Year Anniversary





Present Tenseness

When an OkCupid person wants to be your pen pal and grammar is a deal breaker

By Anna Pulley





Free Will Astrology

Horoscopes for the week of March 5–11.

By Rob Brezsny





Brief of Hearts

A cuckolding conundrum and another case of mismatched libidos.

By Dan Savage

Wife issues. Lack of intimacy. Cuckold, etc.

Frank Kelly

While I typically encourage people to keep their questions brief, it is possible to be too brief, FKE. But I've gotten so many questions from wannabe cuckolds with wife issues over the years that I'm going to hazard a series of guesses and take a shot at assisting you.

I'm guessing you're a straight guy and you're interested in cuckolding — the kink where the wife sleeps with other men, and either she tells the husband about her adventures or the "bored" him to watch her with other men. Cuckolding can involve elements of humiliation and/or degradation, and in some cases includes "forced bi" interactions between the cuckolded husband and the men his wife "cheats" on him with. And I'm also guessing you told the wife about your interest in cuckolding and she wasn't interested and you wound up arguing about it, FKE, and now your sex life is in the toilet, aka "lack of intimacy."

So what do you do now? You drop it, FKE, as cuckolding — which is a big ask for the wife (the social and emotional risks fall on her) — is a kink that both partners have to be equally excited about exploring. If she doesn't want to go there, FKE, then you're not going there. Not getting to explore cuckolding — and dropping the subject — is the price of admission you'll have to pay to revive your sex life.

And if restoring your sex life isn't incentive enough to drop the subject, FKE, this Savage Love reader's experience might inspire you to drop it: "My husband, almost exactly ten years older than me, confessed a cuckold fetish to me shortly before our fifth anniversary," a happily married straight lady wrote (her letter appeared in "Meet the Monogamish," January 4, 2012). "I said no, but a seed was planted. Whenever I would develop a crush on another man, it would occur to me that I could sleep with him if I wanted to." She eventually met someone she wanted to sleep with and went back to her husband — five years later — to ask if he was still interested in cuckolding. He was — and guess what? He's a cuckold now. I had to run an edited version of her letter, so this bit didn't make it into the column, but the only reason this woman wound up exploring cuckolding was because her husband respected her initial "no" and wasn't pressuring her to reconsider. Because she didn't feel like he was miserably unhappy with the status quo — a strictly monogamous status quo — and because she didn't feel like he would blow up if she got cold feet, she felt secure enough to go there.

So shut the fuck up, FKE, and you may eventually get what you want.

My boyfriend and I have been together three years. We plan to start a family, are very happy together, and go on many adventures together — all that good stuff. For the past year or so, I feel like I've been losing my sex drive. Not just toward him but in general. I should mention that I'm 30 and he's 23, but our age gap has always been a nonissue. I have a stressful job and am often too tired to have sex on weeknights, so we're pretty much now down to having sex once a week. He has said this diminishing hurts. He feels like I'm not attracted to him because he always initiates, and he is worried about our future sex life. I used to deny there was a problem and assure him, "No, we're fine, I'm just tired," etc. But I admit it's a problem. I've had more than a few uncomfortable "maintenance sex" sessions where I just want to make him happy, and then I wind up mad at myself for being a faker and feel resentful toward him for being so horny. I've recently been coming to the conclusion that he's right: It will be bad for our future if our sexual needs are so different. But I don't want to let him go because of this. I love him madly. I'm also a CUDDLE ADDICT. In my fantasy world, we cuddle all the time, we have amazing sex only when we're worked up, and my vibrator takes care of me more often than he does (this is already the case generally). But I don't view this lack of sex as a negative thing. I just don't make sex as much of a priority as he does. I would not looking the other way if he needs to get his sexual needs met by someone else or with a professional, but it makes me nervous, mostly because I'd be devastated if he fell in love with someone else. I'm not polyamorous, or as many Scandinavians are, but I'm open-minded.

Barely Really Understanding Good Girl's Loving Sympathiness

Barring a medical issue or a medication issue — get your hormone levels checked, try to incorporate your vibrator into the sex you're having with your boyfriend, consider the possibility that you fall somewhere on the asexual spectrum, and perhaps marrying a sexual isn't the greatest idea (particularly if you can't see yourself opening up the relationship) — this sounds like just another average, ordinary case of mismatched libidos. My advice: Break up now, before you have children, before his feelings of rejection (already so devastating levels) and your feelings of resentment (at having to go through the motions) metastasize into an explosive case of mutual loathing.

Send Dan Savage questions by emailing mail@savagelove.net.

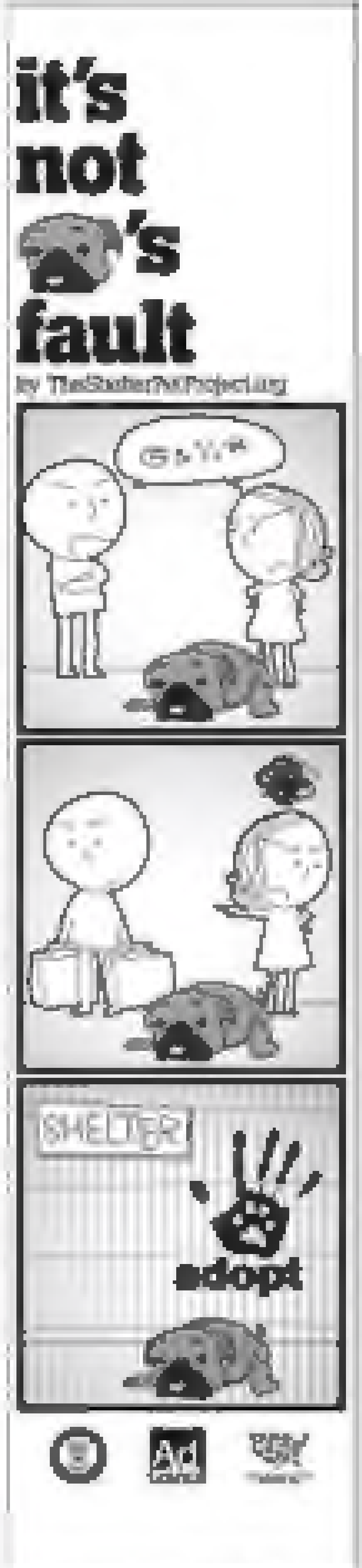
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